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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Jayalekshmy Ayyer et al.

Serial No.: 10/729,746

Examiner: Cam N. Nguyen

Filed : December 5, 2003

Group Art Unit: 1754

For : A NOVEL CATALYST USED FOR REMOVAL OF HYDROGEN SULPHIDE FROM GAS STREAM AND ITS CONVERSION TO SULPHUR, A PROCESS FOR PREPARING SUCH CATALYST AND A METHOD FOR REMOVING OF HYDROGEN SULPHIDE USING SAID CATALYST

1185 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036  
April 30, 2007Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

COMMUNICATION IN RESPONSE TO MARCH 30, 2007 OFFICE ACTION

This Communication is submitted in response to the Office Action issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on March 30, 2007 in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the March 30, 2007 Office Action is due April 30, 2007. Accordingly, this Communication is being timely filed.

Restriction Requirement Under 35 U.S.C. §121

In the March 30, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner required restriction to one of the following allegedly independent and distinct inventions:

- I. Group I, claims 1-17 and 38, drawn to a catalyst;
- II. Group II, claims 18-25, drawn to a process of preparing a catalyst; and
- III. Group III, claims 26-37, drawn to a method for removal of sulfur compounds from a gas steam using a catalyst.

The Examiner stated that the inventions are distinct, each from the other. The Examiner stated that the inventions of Groups I and II are related as process of making and product made. The Examiner alleged that the inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make another and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process. The Examiner alleged that the process as claimed can be used to make another and materially different product, such as refractory inorganic metal oxides or ceramic materials and adsorbents containing metal carbide or oxides other than those being claimed.

The Examiner alleged that the inventions of Groups I and III are related as product and process of use. The Examiner stated that the inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product. The Examiner alleged

that the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product, such as in the hydrocarbon conversion processing of aromatic compounds, hydrocracking of heavy oils, or purification of automotive exhaust gases from an internal combustion engine.

The Examiner further stated that the inventions of Groups I and II are unrelated. The Examiner stated that inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different designs, modes of operation and effects. The Examiner alleged that the inventions of Groups I and II produce different products.

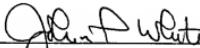
In response, applicants hereby elect with traverse Group I, i.e. claims 1-17 and 38. Applicants further urge the Examiner to reconsider and revise the restriction requirement and to examine all of the claims. Moreover, applicants maintain that if the claims of Group I are allowed, the claims of Group II and Group III should be rejoined if amended to incorporate all of the limitations of the broadest allowed claim of Group I.

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If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

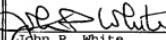
No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Response. However, if any fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

 4/30/07  
John P. White  
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